

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2009 at County Hall, Northallerton.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Paul Richardson in the Chair.

County Councillors:- John Batt, David Blades, Elizabeth Casling, Janet Jefferson, Chris Pearson, Joe Plant, Caroline Seymour, Melva Steckles, Tim Swales and Geoff Webber.

Members Other Than County Councillors:-

Jos Huddleston (Non-Conformist Church), Helena MGouran (Roman Catholic Church), Dr Patricia Stowell and Suzanne Morris (Parent Governors), Bjorn Risi and Judith Bromfield (Voluntary Sector) and Anne Swift (Primary Teacher Representative).

In attendance:-

Executive Members:- County Councillor Jim Clark.

Officers:- John Bell and Paul Nixon (Children and Young People's Service), Stephanie Bratcher (Scrutiny Support) and Jane Wilkinson (Legal and Democratic Services).

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors John Blackie and Chris Head (Secondary Teacher Representative).

One member of the public.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2009 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

9. EVERY CHILD MATTERS – KEY OUTCOMES “ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING”

The Committee received a power-point presentation from John Bell (Assistant Director Quality and Improvement Service on the priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 under the key outcome 'Enjoy and Achieve. A copy of the presentation slides was placed in the Minute Book. The presentation focused on initiatives aimed at improving the educational standard of young people across North Yorkshire. In particular ongoing developments to broaden and improve the school curriculum and the support available for vulnerable groups of young people who are at risk of under achieving.

Detailed statistical information on the target groups identified in the presentation would be made available to Members upon request. Members noted the 40% improvement there had been in GCSE exams results (5 A-C English and Maths) in 2009 in North Yorkshire.

Members were interested in the interventions and support provided to both schools and children which prompted questions on persistent absences from school, the use of Restorative Practice; take up of Diploma's and the use of Supply Teachers and Teaching Assistants.

Members requested further information on the following matters:-

- An analysis of the numbers of free school meals claimed in North Yorkshire.
- The range, location and take up of diplomas in the county.
- An analysis of temporary and permanent exclusions in North Yorkshire.

RESOLVED –

That the information in the report and provided at the meeting be noted.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR JOINT WORKING BETWEEN THE COUNCIL'S IN NORTH YORKSHIRE, COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION AND SCRUTINY OF CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS

The Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance drew Members attention to the Scrutiny Guiding Principles and use of the Councillor Call for Action checklist and form appended to the report as approved by Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED –

That the content of the report be noted.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented the Committee's forward Work Programme and sought approval of its content.

It was anticipated that the visit to Catterick Library would take place at the end of September on a date to be confirmed by the Scrutiny Support Officer.

Members were informed that the timetable of events for the Consultation on Harrogate Admissions arrangements had now been agreed and published (copy on the County Council's website). The consultation on options was due to start on 21 September 2009 and would run until 2 November 2009, in total 22 meetings would be held. All stakeholders would be invited to participate. Separate briefing sessions for County Councillors and School Heads were due to be held and assurances were given that County Councillors would receive personal invitations to attend local consultation events.

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting between County Councillors and the parents of children who accessed early support had taken place on 8 September 2009. At that meeting, parents had expressed a number of concerns which were in the process of being collated and would be fed back to the Committee at a subsequent meeting.

The Chairman sought the agreement of the Committee to undertake a scrutiny review of Young People in North Yorkshire aged between 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and sought volunteers to be members of the task group.

A Member requested an update report on the Youth Offending Team and anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That the Work Programme be updated and suggestions made earlier in the meeting incorporated.
- (c) That the Committee undertake a scrutiny review of NEET and establish a task group comprised of County Councillors Elizabeth Casling, Tim Swales and John Batt.

URGENT ITEM

RESOLVED

The Chairman determined that the following matter be dealt with as an item of urgent business in order to agree future actions in the interests of child safety.

OFSTED UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CONTACT, REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service on the findings of the North Yorkshire unannounced inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements was tabled. A copy of the report was placed in the Minute Book.

The inspection took place on 30 June and 31 July 2009. The results were presented by Paul Nixon (Assistant Director – Children's Social Care) who also outlined the actions that had been taken to address the areas of priority identified by the inspection. Members were informed that as a result of the actions taken there were no unallocated referrals.

A further two week Ofsted Inspection into Safeguarding was due to commence on 14 September 2009. The Safeguarding Inspection would be more wide reaching and detailed than the unannounced inspection.

Members noted the background to the areas of development and priority action identified by the unannounced inspection and supported the action that had been taken.

RESOLVED –

That the content of the report and the information provided at the meeting be noted.

JW/ALJ/JD